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The titles of the first six lessons show to some extent the nature of the exercises: Tenses of the Indicative; Apposition—Predicate Nouns and Adjectives—Verbs of Naming, Choosing, etc.; The Ablative Case—Means or Instrument—Agent—Specification—Accompaniment; Indirect Object—Place to Which—Place Where—Relative; Expressions of Place—Locative Case; Ablative and Genitive of Description—Vocative Case. The well-constructed sentences illustrate fully the grammatical principles of each lesson. Part I is for second year students and the vocabulary and syntax are Caesarian; Part II is for third year work and is based on Cicero's orations. In Part III, designed for seniors in preparatory schools, there are twenty-four lessons much like those of Parts I and II, except that paragraphs of connected prose are introduced; the last sixteen lessons are entirely devoted to connected discourse. In all three Parts the grammatical references at the beginning of each lesson are to the sections of Elements of Syntax, but at the end of each part the corresponding references to Gildersleeve and Lodge, Allen and Greenough, Bennett, and Harkness are supplied. An English-Latin Vocabulary closes the book.

This manual is both condensed and complete; the high-school graduate who has mastered it from cover to cover will find few compeers in the freshman class of any of our colleges.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.

HAROLD L. CLEASBY.

THE JULIAN STAR

When Halley's Comet was still several leagues away in the depths of the firmament, I had rather an amusing adventure in anticipation of its coming, the rehearsal of which may be both interesting and instructive to my fellows in the Classics.

I had been invited to attend an 'at home' by the Latin instructor in our local High School and to address the class in whose honor the occasion had been planned. Happening to note that the date assigned was the eve of the March Ides, the suggestion readily came to my mind to take advantage of the coincidence and discuss the assassination of Caesar. His deification finally became my appointed theme, with the *Iulium sidus* (Hor. Carm. 1,12.47) as the nucleus of my address. Only an hour or so previous to my coming before the assembled company, I was overjoyed to stumble upon what was to me a most astounding discovery. Armed with it, I expected to take my audience by storm.

In Duruy's History of Rome, Volume 3, Section 2, p. 559, foot-note 2, may be found this comment upon the 'hairy star' that played such an important part in the apotheosis of Caesar: "*The comet which appeared at that time was Halley's*". Even that early, although it was March of 1904, public interest was becoming alert over the expected reappearance of the great comet in 1910, so that the above statement was, to say the least, decidedly attractive. The time to

give my address was almost upon me, and I had not the slightest hesitation in accepting the dictum of Professor Mahaffy, who, as the English editor of Duruy's History, I knew was responsible for the note. My peroration was a magnificent effort, something to this effect: "And so, if we are spared to live until 1910, we shall have the pleasure of looking again upon the blazing emblem that is the soul of our great Julius, metamorphosed to the realm where it surely belongs, a seat above the greatest of Rome's gods".

It was not until almost a year after those March Ides of 1904 that I found, to my horror, that, without the leadership of M. Jules Verne, I had been veritably 'Off on a Comet'. In February of 1905, I again took up the theme in a more elaborate vein, recasting it to present before the Faculty Colloquium of the University of Oregon. Somehow, a doubt had crept into my conscience about that brilliant finale of my former address—perhaps because, in all the popular accounts of the several appearances of the Comet and of the historic events with which it was connected, no mention had elsewhere been made of so singular an event as the assassination of Caesar. I therefore began a systematic study from an astronomical standpoint and was shocked to learn how far astray I had been unwittingly led. Unlike Galileo, I am only too anxious to publish my recantation, in the hope that others may avoid digging the same pit for themselves and pulling their followers therein after them. A glance at the table of its reappearances, or, if that is not available, a simple mathematical process, will quickly prove the futility of identifying Halley's Comet with the 'Iulium sidus', for the nearest appearance to the date in question was probably in 11 B. C.—thirty-three years after the assassination and the celebration of Octavian's games, when the comet is distinctly said to have appeared.

This curious but unfortunate error should be given publicity, for the popularity and widely accepted erudition of the editor of Duruy's history are quite apt to disseminate a very gross misconception, to which my own experience bears witness.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON.

FREDERIC STANLEY DUNN.

At the recent Thanksgiving entertainment in The Adirondack Florida School at Rainbow Lake, New York, the Electra of Euripides was presented in an abridged form by the older boys of the school. The excellent translation by Gilbert Murray was used. An introduction was given by Dr. Franklin Carter, Ex-President of Williams College, who explained briefly the style and presentation of Greek plays and the story of Electra. The attempt to interest an audience in a secondary school in a Greek play proved successful in this instance and should encourage other schools to try similar plays for at least a part of their entertainment program.

L. H. SOMERS, Head Master.